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Bruit: a favorable report

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BRUIT

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Exchange Students: Enhancing the IMS Experience

Becoming global citizens seems easier in these days of the Internet, Skype, Facebook, and all other social networking sites. But even before these technological tools, exchange students who shared their daily lives with IMS students helped bring a personal touch to global awareness.

Erika Reusch came from Germany with the International Christian Youth Exchange program during the 1962-63 school year. That same year, June Alliman Yoder ('62) was in Germany with the same program. Erika lived with the Wallace and Lois Bender family. After that first experience of international exchange and influence, IMS has welcomed over 53 students for a year of school.

1965-66 brought **Solveig (Nielsen) Klungsoyr** from Norway to live with Mary Ellen and Ralph Miller. Thirty years later (1995-96), Solveig's daughter, **Hilde Klungsoyr** attended her 12th grade year at IMS and lived



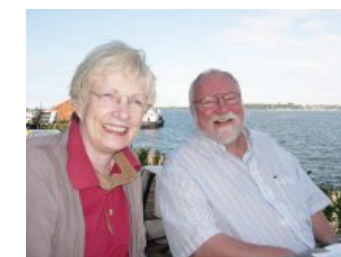
Hilde Klungsoyr and her son, Philip Emanuel

with Karen and Bruce Harvey. "I felt welcomed from the beginning; both the staff and

students were so lovely and caring. What I remember the most is how everyone emphasized telling each other positive things. It seemed like a culture had emerged, a focus-on-people's-good-sides culture. My year made me feel better about myself, raising my self-confidence." One of Hilde's favorite memories was playing sports like volleyball, basketball, and track. "Joining sports gave me so much joy! When track season came, the mid- and long-distance girls spent hours running together. We called ourselves *Tifamcharjenda* (Tiffany Stutzman '96, Amy Chupp '98, Charletta Erb '98, Jenny Bock '96, and I) and became close friends." Since her year at IMS, Hilde lived in Norway, went to medical school in Bergen, lived in Sweden, and has been to Ethiopia a couple times. Hilde currently lives in Oslo with her husband, Espen Bordvik, and one year old son, Philip Emanuel. She is a doctor at Diakonhjemmet Sykehus, a central hospital. "Knowing part of the American culture from the inside has helped me better understand the way Americans behave and has helped me have a wider horizon in general."

Also widening her horizon was **Kirsten (Matsson) Abramowski**, who attended IMS from 1967-68 and lived with the Duane R. and Jeanette Yoder family. "When I first got a little booklet about IMS, I thought it would be a very strange, strict and old-fashioned school, but I

had already changed my mind before school began." Through the year, Kirsten



Kirsten (Matsson) and Michael Abramowski

gained much. "I became more open minded and tolerant. My faith grew and changed to a basic, self-evident, granted gift, which does not depend on behavior or a special lifestyle. It is a gift of God and a grace to be able to believe." Following IMS, Kirsten had two more years of school in Sweden, and then worked in West Berlin with Gretchen Fisher. There Kirsten met Michael, her husband. She studied to be a teacher and taught in Sweden, then West Berlin. Later they moved to Kiel, Germany, where Linnea and Linus were born. Kirsten worked for ten years with a German Lutheran Church Preschool. At around age 40, Kirsten went back to school and apprenticed in an upholstery shop. She currently is at the theater in Kiel working at various tasks such as furniture, curtains, and backstage work. In her final two years before retirement, Kirsten is counseling the theater personnel. As she says, "Life is full of surprises and you only regret what you have not done!"

Life brought surprises to

Alumni news continued

Births continued

Briggs Keith Stauffer to **Mariah (Stutzman '97)** and Clay **Stauffer**, September 17, 2009, Hesston, KS.

Rachel Sue Lamb to **Angie (Hershberger '98)** and Jake **Lamb**, January 14, 2010, North Liberty, IA.

Hayden Jerry Holub to **Betsy (Hartzler '99)** and Matt **Holub**, August 25, 2009, Johnston, IA.

Isaac Nicholas Bender and Ashlyn Marie Bender to **Rebecca (Schlabaugh '00)** and Willie **Bender**, November 29, 2009, Mt. Pleasant, IA.

Elijah Mark Crawford to Melissa and **Mark ('01) Crawford**, November 14, 2009, Ankeny, IA.

Lyla Pearl Augspurger to **Lisa (Nye '02)** and Dan **Augspurger**, February 17, 2010, Iowa City, IA.

Lyndon Byron Peak to **Jennifer (Miller '02)** and Carl **Peak**, September 11, 2009, Shelbina, MO.

Marryn Alexis Boshart to **Tanna (Yoder '03)** and **Tony Boshart**, ('04), November 18, 2009, Kalona, IA.

Lenox Charles Miller to **Carleen (Perez '03)** and **Kyle Miller** ('05), October 4, 2009, Wellman, IA.

Kadience Liv Swartzentruber to **Kelsey (Wyse '03)** and Kendall **Swartzentruber**, November 17, 2009, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bradin Michael Kaufman to **Abbe** (F '07-'09) & Bubba **Kaufman**, October 21, 2009, Wayland, IA.

Marriages

Amy Brenneman ('95) and Nate Fick, November 28, 2009.

Erin Miller ('00) and Matt Milanese, October 3, 2009.

Carmen Schrock ('01) and Joe Fernau, October 24, 2009.

William Leichty ('02) and Katelyn Nafziger, September 26, 2009.

Martha Miller ('03) and Tim Andrews, October 17, 2009.

Kelli Ferguson ('06) and Justin Schrock, October 3, 2009.

Rachel Hostetler ('06) and Glenn Sterling, November 16, 2009.

Sarah Miller ('06) and Josh Wenger, November 28, 2009.

Deaths

Anna Marie Detweiler ('57), Goshen, IN, died January 15, 2010.

Lulu Jane (Brenneman '58) Miller, Kalona, IA, died December 30, 2009.

David Letts ('64), Hyde, PA, died July 30, 2009.

Michelle (Miller '89) Omic, Goshen, IN, died November 7, 2009.

Mission Statement of Iowa Mennonite School

The purpose of Iowa Mennonite School is to provide a quality high school education that will encourage and enable each student to become a more informed, skilled and compassionate disciple within the body of Christ. In an atmosphere of a caring community of faculty, staff, parents and church, students will be encouraged to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ as interpreted in Anabaptist/Mennonite theology.

Exchange students continued

Ellen Daenzer when she arrived at IMS in 2001-02. Since her childhood Ellen had heard about IMS, as both her uncle Ottmar (1973-74) and father, Ulrich (1976-77) were exchange students. Her sister Conny



Ellen Daenzer

Daenzer Hansen (1999-2000) and brother Sam (2002-03) also attended. Ellen was quite excited to also be attending. But her surprises came by way of the educational system. "In IMS the teachers don't just try to teach you facts, but also try to help you explore your own opinion and give you the chance to grow as a person. In Germany, the teachers just tell you the facts, don't care about your opinion, and don't care very much about your person." IMS was also life-changing for Ellen's faith. She was baptized at Kalona Mennonite and felt a reaching out from God. "I believe in God now. And I found out that there are people who judge you because of *who* you are and not because of *what* you are or how you look. That changed my circle of friends here in Germany." Ellen added, "I can't eat sweet corn in Germany anymore, because it doesn't taste nearly as good as in Kalona!" Ellen's life direction after IMS lead her to the University of Munich where she is in medical school.

In the 2002-03 year, **Martin Schild** arrived from Germany and lived with Reuben Stoltzfus and Rose Shenk's family. Martin found the same warmth at IMS as other exchange students. He enjoyed the school, but initially thought of chapel as an unnecessary part of the school day. However, "very soon I appreciated chapel as a moment outside of every day's academics where the entire school came together to have a short spiritual input and think about fundamental ques-

tions. Over the year there were outstanding speakers who succeeded in approaching well-known subjects from a perspective I had never considered myself." Martin also created a cherished memory through his interterm experience to Markham, IL where he learned to know friends in a completely new setting. "That was also when I started to seriously play Dutch Blitz!" Martin claims, "Since my year at IMS, I have become a much more positive person." Following his year at IMS, Martin completed high school in Germany, did a year of social work with street kids in Quito, Ecuador, earned a degree from the University of Geneva and Graduate School in Geneva, and is currently a law student at Heidelberg University specializing in International Law.



Martin Schild

This school year welcomes students from South Korea, Republic of Georgia, Serbia, Albania, and Kazakhstan. In February, five students and one teacher from Lodz, Poland spent three weeks at IMS, living with host families, learning about Midwestern American culture, and visiting classes. Their visit was sponsored by the U.S. State Department who chose IMS as one of five United States' schools to host students. IMS students Amanda Bartel, Taylor Fulton, Gretchen Geyer, Aliese Gingerich, and Jess Miller, accompanied by teacher Marcus Miller, were chosen to spend June 5-July 3 in Lodz as American ambassadors learning about Poland.

With future exchange students coming to IMS, our students will continue to develop a global awareness with a personal touch.

From the Development Office - Larry Swartzendruber

Lest you think we're not keeping up with the times, we *are* attempting to move into the 21st century!

While "some of us" still have difficulty embracing technology, please notice on our Website (iowamennonite.org), that we're trying to simplify things for you. As you browse the site, the right side of the home page includes ways in which you can make donations or payments.

We are now able to accept credit card gifts and payments online; we hope this will be of convenience. Please note that there is a small fee to do so; the instructions as you move through the process will make that clear.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to "move forward" . . . and thank you for your continued support of IMS—traditionally or otherwise!

Please contact me if you have questions or wish to discuss your support.

On-Line Subscription Sign-Up

If you would prefer receiving the *Bruit* and other mailings of interest to you online, please go to the IMS Website, iowamennonite.org, and click "Sign-up" in the On-Line Subscription block on the right side of the home page. Prospective students may also use this site to sign-up for information.

Class Reunions

As you meet for your class reunions, please take note of events and happenings of class members that would be of interest to other alumni. The *Bruit* is your alumni paper. Help us find alumni/events we could feature here. Also take a **group photo of your class members and send or e-mail it**, and any information that you have compiled to IMS to the attention of the *Bruit* (iamenno@yahoo.com).

Class of 1950—60th reunion May 22-23

Class of 1960—50th reunion August 27-29

Class of 1970—40th reunion July 2-4

Class of 1975—35th reunion July 24-25

Class of 1995—15th reunion July 10-11

Class of 2000—10th reunion August 7-8

Class of 1960 kicks off their 50th year since graduation

The class of 1960 kicked off their 50th year since graduation by organizing and participating in a "mission trip" on January 16-31, 2010 to Shell, Ecuador, located at the edge of the Amazonian rain forest southeast of Quito.

Omer (class president) and Mary Jane (Burkholder) Troyer led the group of 14 people—11 were IMS graduates and three were from the Troyers' church in North Port, FL. In addition, several other 1960 classmates gave donations that went to La Casa de Fe, the orphanage where the group worked in Shell, and to La Escuela Esperanza, a church-sponsored school.

Their initial contacts in Shell came from another 1960 classmate. After graduation from IMS, Phyllis Detwiler '60 married Eldon Yoder, '58. They were led to a career as full-time missionaries in Ecuador with Gospel Missionary Union. Fast forward to retirement years when the Troyers met up with the Yoders in Iowa. This meeting resulted in Omer and Mary Jane Troyer traveling to Ecuador several times, once for a full academic year at La Escuela Esperanza, a school begun by the Yoders' church near Shell. In February 2009, Jim '60 and Lois (Kieffaber) Bare met Omer and Mary Jane and Marvin Stoltzfus '60 in Sarasota. Omer broached the idea of a class of '60 mission trip and the rest was history.

Three main projects filled the two weeks in Ecuador—construction of 60 school desks, childcare and tutoring at La Casa de Fe, and working on the construction of a new building for the orphanage.

Five or six participants worked mainly on constructing school desks for the school where the Troyers had spent the 2007-08 academic year. This work consisted of grinding off the "burrs" left on the previously welded frames, and cleaning and

Alumni news

Births

Johnny Ace Roetlin to Tess and **J.T. Roetlin** ('82), October 20, 2009, Kalona, IA.

Lorelei Jane Miller to Althea and **Ryan Miller** ('92), December 30, 2009, Kalona, IA.

Garrett Ray Bontrager to **Cindy (Boller)** '94) and Bill **Bontrager**, October 30, 2009, Wellman, IA.

Isaac John Koehn to **Rachel (Rempel)** '94) and Ryan **Koehn**, November 3, 2009, Newton, KS.

Blake Timothy Nikkel to **Nicole (Widmer)** '95) and Nathan **Nikkel**, June 8, 2009, Pella, IA.

painting the frames. Then they cut and bolted on plywood seats, desktops, and a drawer for books. All wooden parts were sanded and given several coats of polyurethane. A day after completion, the team visited the classrooms where the desks were already in use. The students thanked the group profusely, promised to take good care of the desks, and wished them God's blessing.

At the orphanage members of the team took care of toddlers, tutored older children, cared for infants in the "baby house," sorted clothes and supplies, and did other work as requested. Work at the orphanage's construction site consisted of digging and moving rocks for water and sewer lines, and doing electrical work.

La Casa de Fe is an orphanage run by Patti Sue Arnold, a former American military member who wanted to do something meaningful during her retirement. About eight years ago, she went to Ecuador and soon answered the call to take in a foster child. The requests for her to care for children kept coming and she now has about 60 children, ranging from infants to 12-year-olds. A number of children have physical disabilities and

other needs. Although Patti Sue lives in a house with five infants and two pre-teen girls, the rest of the children live in a concrete structure that functions as dormitory, school, and playground.

The current building is inadequate, so she has purchased seven plus acres just outside of town and has begun work on a multi-use building now under construction. The entire operation is a venture in faith.



Back: Jim Bare ('60), Daniel Keith Yoder ('58), Omer Troyer ('60), Jim Hochstetler ('59), Marvin Stoltzfus ('60), Daniel Miller ('63). Front: Lois (Kieffaber) Bare ('60), Shirley (Bender) Yoder ('58), Mary Jane (Burkholder) Troyer ('60), Anna (Freyenberger) Hochstetler ('60), Marlene (Troyer) Miller ('63).

One important concern for the team was that jobs not be taken from locals, especially the unemployed people. They went with the desire to help where needed, not to do for the people what they could do for themselves. Perhaps they should have deferred travel costs and merely sent collected money? While debriefing with Patty Sue on the last night in Shell, the team was reassured, "That is not God's plan. Keep sending work teams."

Shannon Erica Leichty to Melanie and **Michael Leichty** ('96), October 23, 2009, Wellman, IA.

Marguerite Amelia Yoder Zook to **Kathleen Zook** ('96) and Scott Yoder, December 6, 2009, Washington D.C.

Rhys Joseph Bender to Samantha and **Stephen Bender** ('97), January 18, 2010, Wellman, IA.

Etta Naomi Graber to **Amy (Boller)** '97) and **Nate Graber** ('97), January 15, 2010, Iowa City, IA.

Tate James Lalk to **Sarah (Bock)** '97) and **Brad Lalk**, July 25, 2009, Waterloo, IA.